

**Participation of Split-Session Pre-Kindergarten Students
in the Special Milk Program**

Purpose:

This instruction sets forth the policy concerning pre-kindergarten students in the Special Milk Program.

Scope:

Sponsors participating in the National School Lunch Program (NSLP), School Breakfast Program (SBP), or Special Milk Program (SMP).

Description:

USDA has re-evaluated program policy to extend the Special Milk Program to children in split-session pre-kindergarten programs who do not have access to the school's meal service program.

Upon review of legislation, USDA does not believe Congress purposefully intended to preclude pre-kindergartners from the same benefits offered to kindergarten children in similar circumstances under the 1986 amendment.

Therefore, USDA is clarifying that the exception is also applicable to these younger children.

The law which authorized this exception specifically applied this consideration to children in split-session kindergarten programs. USDA has recently reviewed and re-evaluated this issue in regards to other pre-primary children, since they are often in school during the same time periods as the split-session kindergarten programs and also may not have access to a federally-assisted meal program.

This exception applies **only** to split-session kindergarten and other pre-primary children who do not have access to other meal programs.

SOURCE: MEMORANDUM DATED FEBRUARY 1, 1991, FROM THERESA E. BOWMAN, REGIONAL DIRECTOR, CHILD NUTRITION PROGRAMS, UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, FOOD AND NUTRITION SERVICE.